



Massachusetts National Guard

Public Affairs

50 Maple Street, Milford, MA 01757

News Release

POINT OF CONTACT:

Maj. Peter Lucht

Cell: (617) 515-9150

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Massachusetts Guard Helps with Boston's 4th of July Celebration

BOSTON, Mass. -- July 4 at the Esplanade in Boston the Massachusetts National Guard will help the citizens of Massachusetts celebrate Independence Day while assisting civil authorities in the protection of public safety at the event.

While the Guard has long participated in the celebration at the Esplanade by providing flyovers and cannon salutes for the event, this is the fifth year that the Massachusetts National Guard will provide soldiers to help the Massachusetts State Police ensure public safety along the Charles River.

The Massachusetts National Guard's 151st Regional Support Group (Wellesley, Mass.) will provide public safety support, while B Battery 101st Field Artillery (Danvers, Mass.) will provide a cannon salute during the 1812 Overture and F-16 Fighting Falcon jets from the Vermont Air National Guard's 158th Fighter Wing will conduct a flyover as part of the day's festivities.

Additionally, the Massachusetts National Guard's 1st Civil Support Team will be in place to assist civil authorities in planning for, responding to, and assessing any known or suspected use of a weapon of mass destruction (including chemical, biological, radiological and high yield explosive threats).

Protecting public safety is not a new mission for the Massachusetts National Guard, which was formed in 1636 to protect the lives and property of Massachusetts citizens. For nearly 370 years, through fire, flood, blizzard and threat of terrorism, the men and women of the Massachusetts National Guard have continued to perform this mission.

Closer cooperation between the National Guard and civil agencies over the past few years, however, has been a win-win for the Guard and civilian first responders. Guard soldiers get unique training and experience to help maintain readiness for future homeland defense missions, and first responders get access to additional manpower and specialized equipment that might not otherwise be available.

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